

## HAYES SEES DANGER IN STATE EDUCATION

Continued from Preceding Page.

many a long day at the widespread spirit of secularization in education, and is gravely anxious at the present advocacy of Federal centralization and the still more dangerous tendency of socialism in education. Secularism violates the rights of God; centralization encroaches on the rights of the family, and socialism the rights of the child.

### Danger to Nation Foreseen.

Sad is the lament of many thinking people and educators, within and without the church, at the absolute divorce of our system of public education from religion. The constant and continuous ignoring of God and the approved legal indifference to religious belief and practice in the schoolroom must have its unfortunate effect on the young mind. The nation is bound to feel and suffer the consequence. The kingdom of this world has ever been arrayed against God. Worldliness is essentially opposed to godliness. Christ said most emphatically that He prayed not for the world man had set up in pride against God.

The philosophy of the worldling is to enjoy what one pleases—to think as one pleases—and to do what one pleases. Without the checks placed by religious sanction and the moral law; with science giving the shrug of doubt as to the existence of God; with law courts grinding out divorces of *nonsumus*; with passing literature that finds it pays to portray characters reeking with moral shame and condoning the crimes and sins of society; with feminine dress mocking at decency and modesty; with ever decreasing respect for authority and reverence for the flag of our country; where is the power, who has the wisdom, where the salvation of the youth of our land? The Catholic Church is alarmed and is straining every effort to save her own children and does so by teaching religion and the moral law in conjunction with an approved course of secular knowledge.

### Secularism Opposed.

Christ must be our law and standard of education. St. Paul to the Ephesians (IV-17-20) bears this message to the Christians of our own day: "This then I say and testify in the Lord; that henceforward you walk not as also the Gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind; having their understanding darkened; being alienated from the life of God through ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts. . . . But you have not so learned Christ." A severe indictment! Secularism is essentially alienation from God with darkened understanding and blindness of heart. Secularism creates false gods and lures with the temptation of Eden—"Your eyes will be opened; you shall be as God, knowing good and evil." Gen. III-5. Secularism fills man with lust for power and the greed of possession.

An extraordinary manifestation of secularism in education is seen in the proposed federalized control of education throughout the country. The passion for power blinds the advocates of such a movement to the God-given rights, based on the natural law, of parents to teach their own offspring.

All the legislation in the world cannot deprive parents of this inalienable right. Nation and State, city and village should provide opportunities of education and should see to it that parents neglect not their duty. But to centralize, in the hands of a few men, an educational dictatorship for the forty-eight sovereign States of the Union smacks of an usurpation of power and of empire that makes the thoughtful wonder and ponder much at the drift of our times. Practical politics plays to policies rather than principles, even at Washington. Where is the guarantee that Washington can evolve an ideal system of education? Albany might meet with greater success than Washington. Statesmen, legislators and politicians hardly claim any special prerogative in the field of education. If illiteracy must be wiped out here and if Americanization must be encouraged there, why Federal enactment for the entire country? Too much Federal interference and supervision in matters that come closely home to the people

and are local tend to weaken the authority and influence of the States which form the very strength and unity of our national life.

### Socialism Looms Up.

Socialism also looms up in the educational world. Teachers and pupils, in many instances, have succumbed to the strong and bold appeal of radicalism, false though it be in principle and practice and opposed to our ideals of popular government and democratic institutions. The passion of socialism is state possession of everything and everybody. Defying and denying the rights of God and the rights of the family, socialism would take the child from the cradle—and the cradle, too—as the common property of the ideal state. It is both Christian and American to hold that freedom is personal and individualistic, within the well established limits of human and divine law. Yet the teachers of the new and progressive radical State tell you that up to the present democracy has been too tolerant of

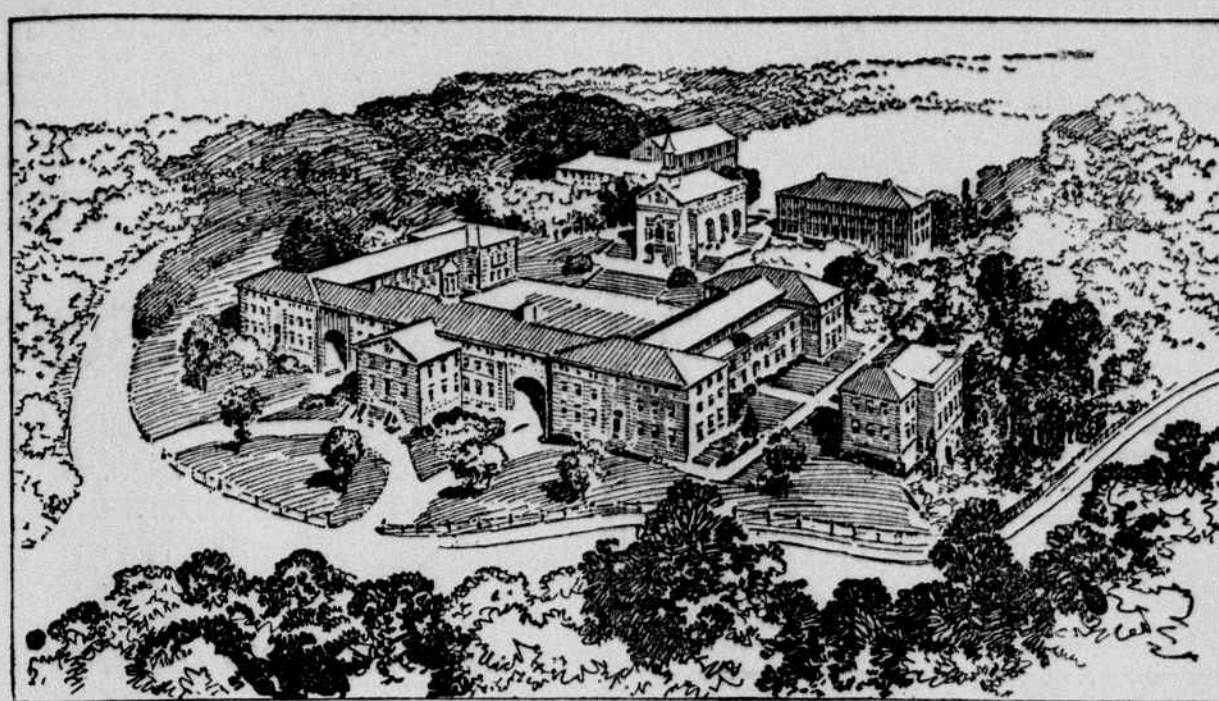
old, traditional views of life, government, education and industry; but from now on the new democracy will be aggressive and constructive and enforce the supreme rights of the State over society, the family, the individual and all the resources and agencies of human activity. One ideal only shall prevail in education; the child belongs to the State and is to be trained as future citizen, future soldier, future toiler, future thinker, future servant—according to fixed and inflexible standards of the super-perfect State.

May God save the teachers, the scholars and the schools of America from such evil!

Our beloved country may rest assured that the Catholic Church and its Catholic system of education will stand like "a fortified city, a pillar of iron and a wall of brass" (Jer. I, 18) against the enemies of America and labor, pray and sacrifice that our Heavenly Father may continue to bless most abundantly and preserve unto generations yet unborn our glorious Republic.

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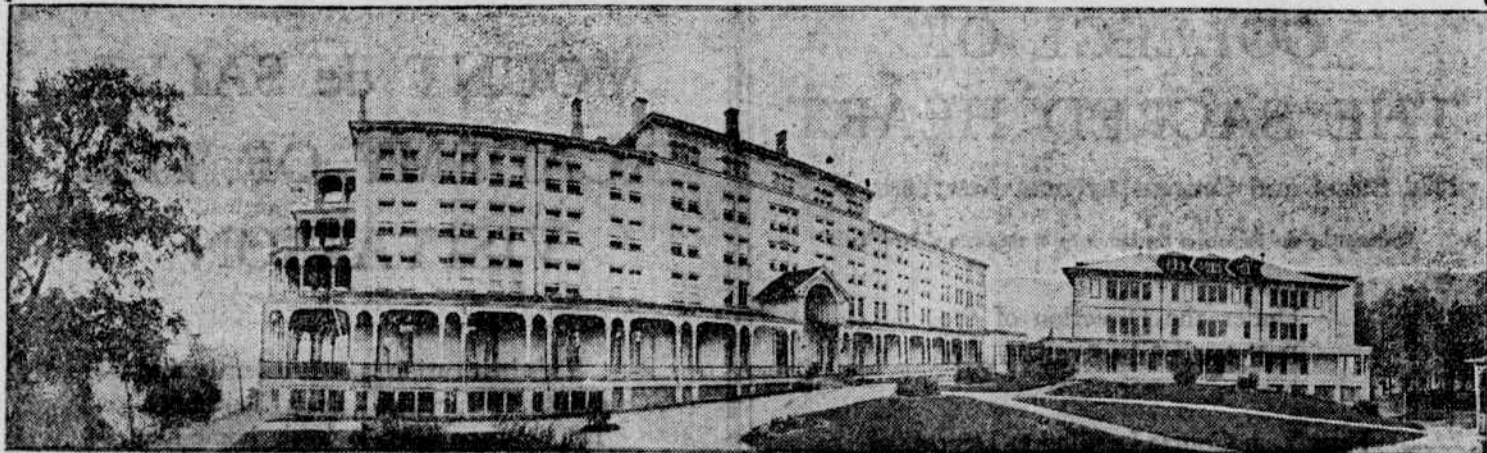
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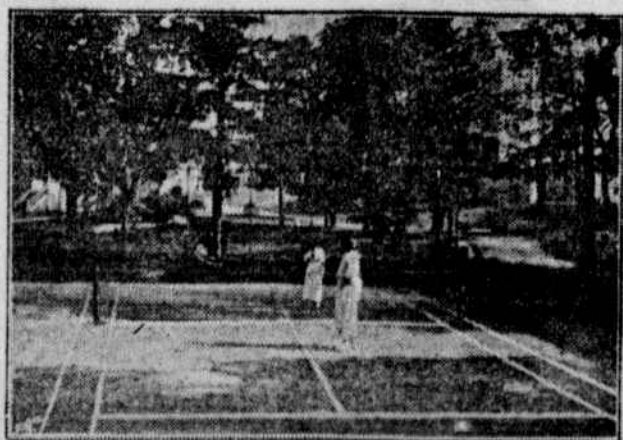
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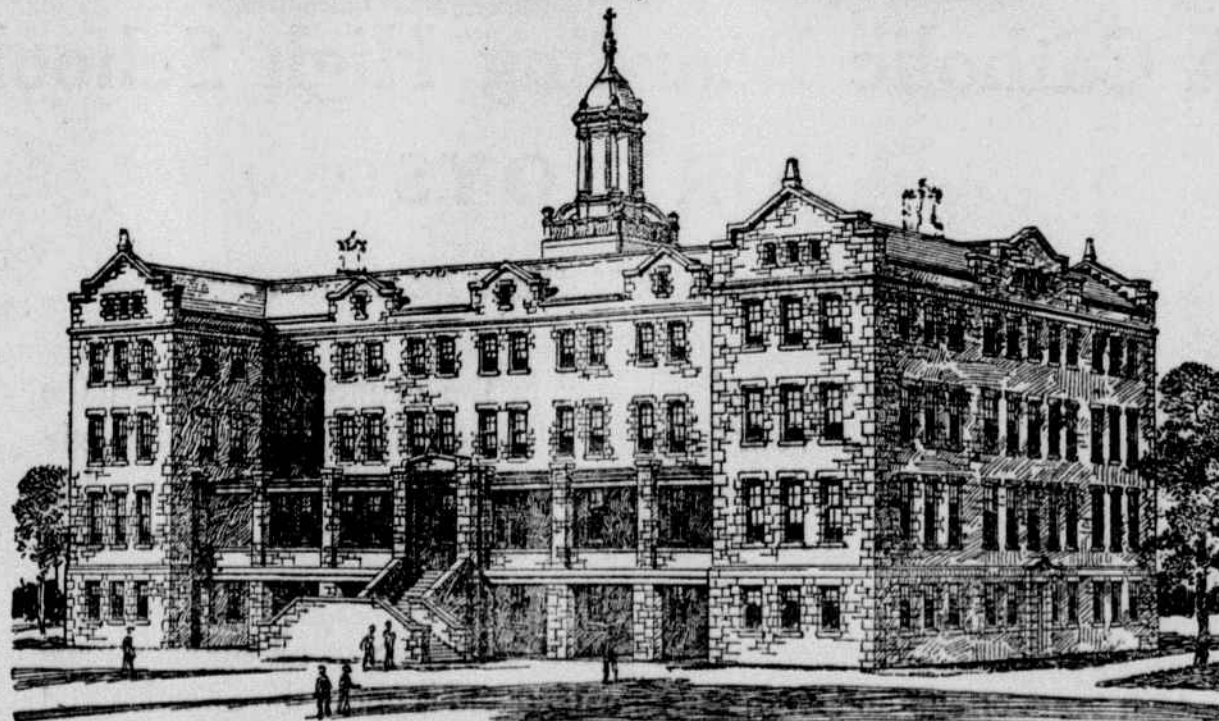


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